

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 05122 011207Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----075810 011215Z /21
O 011150Z APR 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4726

S E C R E T LONDON 05122

NODIS CHEROKEE

DEPT PASS PRESIDENT'S PARTY
EYES ONLY FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR BREWSTER
DEPT FOR TARNOFF

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: NATO UK
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH UK FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN

1. WARREN CHRISTOPHER HAS ASKED ME TO GIVE YOU MY
IMPRESSIONS OF REACTIONS OF DAVID OWEN AND MICHAEL
PALLISER (INCLUDED AT SPECIFIC REQUEST OF OWEN) TO
CHRISTOPHER'S MESSAGE ON ERW.

2. LEAVING SYMPATHETIC OPINIONS ON THE MERITS AND
DEFERENCE TO PRESIDENTIAL PREROGATIVE TO ONE SIDE, BOTH
WERE UTTERLY CANDID IN DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL. EVEN DIS-
COUNTING BRITISH MANNERS AND UNDERSTATEMENT, BOTH
UNDERScoreD THE DISASTROUS IMPACT THE DECISION WILL HAVE
ON THE PRESIDENT'S CREDIBILITY AND HENCE LEADERSHIP IN
THE WESTERN WORLD. THIS CAN BE MITIGATED BY THE FORM
OF PRESENTATION; BUT BECAUSE OF HAVING ASKED ALLIES TO
MARCH UP THE HILL AND NOW DOWN AGAIN, CREDIBILITY WILL
STILL BE DAMAGED NO MATTER HOW WELL THE PUBLIC FORMULA-
TION IS HANDLED.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LONDON 05122 011207Z

3. DAVID OWEN'S CONCERN WAS TO SOMEHOW LINK DECISION TO
REASSURANCE TO EUROPE THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS STILL BENT
ON ACHIEVING RAPPROCHEMENT WITH THE RUSSIANS; DESIRE TO
MOVE MBFR TO THE POLITICAL LEVEL; AND POSSIBILITY OF A
CARTER-BREZHNEV SUMMIT.

4. PALLISER WAS WORRIED ABOUT ALMOST UNANIMOUS SUPPORT

FOR ERW BY THE NATO AND NATIONAL MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS
AND THE IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING OR AT LEAST MINIMIZING
AUDIBLE MILITARY GRUMBLING.

5. ALL AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR THE
PRESIDENT TO SPELL IT ALL OUT AS FULLY AND HONESTLY AS
POSSIBLE, MAKING IT CLEAR THAT HE HAD EARLIER-ON FAVORED
PRODUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT, BUT IN VIEW OF HIS HOPES FOR
MBFR AND THE AVAILABILITY OF OTHER WAYS OF STRENGTHENING
TACTICAL DETERRENTS THIS WAS NOT THE TIME TO DO IT.
DAVID ESPECIALLY SEEMED TO THINK IT MIGHT EASE THE
IMPACT IF THE DECISION DID NOT SEEM FINAL AND IRREVER-
SIBLE, BUT WAS LINKED TO HOPEFUL SIGNS ON STRATEGIC AND
TACTICAL ARMS CONTROL.

6. IT WAS APPARENT THAT WITH EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS AND
OPINION THE PROBLEM IS THE UNCERTAIN TRUMPET, THE BACK-
ING AND FILLING, EVEN MORE THAN THE MERITS OF THE
DECISION. IN THE UNITED STATES, THE PROBLEM TAKES THE
FORM OF STRENGTHENING THE CRITICAL VOICE OF THE HAWKS.

7. ALL AGREED TO PONDER FURTHER THE MODE OF PUBLIC
PRESENTATION AND WERE ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT ANY ADVICE
PROMPTLY AND IN MOST STRICT CONFIDENCE. I EXPECT YOU
WILL HEAR FROM DAVID PERSONALLY NOT WITH ANY DOGMATIC
RECOMMENDATION BUT LAYING OUT THE PROS AND CONS AS HE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 LONDON 05122 011207Z

SEES THEM ON DIFFERENT EMPHASES WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERE

8. NEEDLESS TO SAY CHRIS WAS VERY WELL RECEIVED AND THE
WHOLE TONE OF MEETING WAS EFFORT TO BE HELPFUL BY BEING
CANDID.

BREWSTER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, MEETINGS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS PRODUCTION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 4-1-78
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LONDON05122
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DEPT PASS PRESIDENT'S PARTY, EYES ONLY FOR THE SEC FROM AMB BREWSTER, DEPT FOR TARNOFF
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840139-2315, N780004-0207
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197804103/aaaadjr.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b56a35a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2826733
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH UK FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN
TAGS: PARM, UK, US, NATO, (CARTER, JIMMY), (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN), (OWEN, DAVID)
To: STATE SS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b56a35a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014